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BSc (Nursing), University of Iceland, 1996  
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INTERDISCIPLINARY PhD PROGRAM

TITLE OF THESIS:  
THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN PAIN-RELATED CAREGIVER BEHAVIOR: COMPARING CANADIAN, ICELANDIC, AND THAI CAREGIVERS OF 6–12-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN

TIME/DATE:  
10:00 am, Friday, May 5, 2017

PLACE:  
Room 3107, The Mona Campbell Building, 1459 Lemarchant Street

EXAMINING COMMITTEE:  
Dr. Denise Harrison, Department of Nursing, University of Ottawa  
(External Examiner)  
Dr. Jack Duffy, Rowe School of Business, Dalhousie University (Reader)  
Dr. Yoko Yoshida, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Dalhousie University (Reader)  
Dr. Allen Finley, Department of Anesthesia, Pain Management & Perioperative Medicine, Dalhousie University (Reader)  
Dr. Patrick McGrath, Departments of Psychology & Neuroscience, and Psychiatry, Dalhousie University (Supervisor)

DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE:  
Dr. William Barker, Interdisciplinary PhD Program, Dalhousie University

CHAIR:  
Dr. Karl Dilcher, PhD Defence Panel, Faculty of Graduate Studies

ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to examine the role culture plays in caregiver’s pain-related parent behaviors. This study used a cross-cultural survey design with a convenience sample of caregivers of 6–12-year-old children (N = 547) living in Canada (n = 183), Iceland (n = 184), or Thailand (n = 180). A team-translation approach included psychometric assessment and confirmatory factor analysis, ensuring an equivalent measurement model of cultural values, parenting styles, and pain-related caregiver responses across the three samples. Univariate analysis entailed comparing the average levels of, and multigroup structural equation modeling analysis of, the relationships among cultural values, parenting styles, and pain-related caregiver behaviors across Canadian, Icelandic, and Thai caregivers. Cross-country differences in the endorsement of cultural values (vertical individualism, horizontal individualism, and collectivism), parenting styles (authoritative and authoritarian), and pain-related behaviors (solicitousness and discouraging) emerged between Canadians and Thais, but not always in the expected direction. Icelanders were more similar to Thais than Canadians on the cultural values they endorsed. Country did not affect which cultural model of parenting (cultural values and parenting styles) caregivers adopted. Parenting style mediated between cultural values and pain-related caregiver behaviors. Vertical/horizontal individualism, collectivism, and authoritative and authoritarian-parenting styles positively predicted solicitousness. Vertical individualism and authoritarian-parenting style were positive predictors of discouraging, whereas other predictors were not. Thesis results suggested that cross-country differences exist in how caregivers behave when their child is in pain. However, country does not appear to influence which cultural models of parenting caregivers adopted, including their pain-related behaviors. The four cultural models of parenting predicting solicitousness indicated that solicitousness may have different meanings among individuals, and supports others’ claims of solicitousness universality in a pediatric pain context. Future studies are needed to confirm if cultural models of parenting processes around pain-related caregiver behaviors are universal.